IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-23, and substitute the following claims therefor.

Claims 1-23 Canceled.

24. A messaging system comprising:

a user interface to receive a user input including a message, the message to request one or more actions to be taken by the system;

a parser to detect one or more keywords in the message, the keywords to identify the specific action to be taken by the system in response to the request;

a messaging unit to assemble a request message based on the message; and

a communications unit to transmit the request.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the user input comprises a text input mechanism.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the user input comprises a speech input mechanism, and the system further comprises a speech-to-text converter.

27. The system of claim 24, wherein the communications unit further receives a formatted response to the request message, and the user interface further presents requested results and information to the user.

28. The system of claim 24, wherein the user interface further provides feedback to the user upon detection of the one or more keywords, indicating that an action will be taken in response to the keywords.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the feedback is provided immediately when a keyword is entered.

30 The system of claim 28, wherein the feedback is provided after the message request is dispatched.

31. The system of claim 24, further comprising the user interface to prompt the user as to the specific action to be taken in response to the keyword detected in the message.

32. The system of claim 24, wherein the user enters information in a pre-defined format for inclusion in the user-supplied text.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the format includes specific fields when multi-field data is to be included in the request.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein the system, in response to detection of a keyword, provides guidance to the user to enter the fields appropriately to be included in the request.

35. The system of claim 24, wherein the request message sent by the communications unit comprises one or more of the following: some of the message entered by the user, other information extracted from the user's system, and context information obtained from the client portion of the system.

36. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a message receiving unit to receive the request message from a client system; and

an action logic to execute one or more actions triggered by the keywords in the request message.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the actions utilize data from one or more of the following: the message entered by the user, additional message content data in pre-stored connector files, additional information extracted from the user's system and context data.

38. The system of claim 36, wherein the user request is received as a text message.

39. The system of claim 36, wherein the action logic executes one or more of the following actions: posting information to a database, querying a database, querying a Web page, combining fetched information with data contained in the message received from the user's system, and depositing the result into one or more destinations.

40. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

the message sending logic to process results and formulate a response to the request message.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the response is placed in a format appropriate for the user's display device.

42. The system of claim 40, further comprising:

a communication unit to send the response to a destination specified in the original request message.

43. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a list of connector files to invoke various actions, a connector file having an access list assigning to individual users or groups access to particular connectors.

44. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a communication unit to update the connectors resident on the server and on the user's systems.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the connectors are downloaded from a central connector catalog.

46. The system of claim 24, wherein the individual user may add aliases for keywords, which aliases are subsequently operative as keywords for that user.

47. A messaging system comprising:

a database of keywords, each keyword having an associated action, each keyword user-customizable;

a user interface to receive a user input including a message including one or more keywords to request one or more actions to be taken by the system;

a parser to detect the one or more keywords in the message;

a messaging unit to assemble a request message based on the message; and

a communications unit to transmit the request.

48. The messaging system of claim 47, further comprising:

a central database of connectors, each connector associated with a keyword, users downloading the connectors from the central database;

a user interface to enable a user to edit, add, and delete keywords associated with downloaded connectors.

49. A server comprising:

a database connectors, each connector associated with a keywords, the connectors downloadable by a user;

a message receiving unit to receive a request message from a user;

an action logic to execute one or more actions triggered by the keywords in the request message; and

a communication unit to send the response to a destination specified in the original request message.

50. The server of claim 49, further comprising:

an access control mechanism to the database of connectors, restricting access to connectors by user;

51. The server of claim 49, further comprising:

a parser to detect the one or more keywords in the request message.

52. The server of claim 49, wherein the action logic executes one or more of the following actions: posting information to a database, querying a database, querying a Web page, combining fetched information with data contained in the message received from the user's system, and depositing the result into one or more destinations.

53. A messaging system comprising:

a user interface to receive a user input including a message, the message to request one or more actions to be taken by the system;

a parser to detect one or more keywords in the message, the keywords to identify the specific action to be taken by the system in response to the request;

a messaging unit to assemble a request message based on the message, the messaging unit further to add additional information to the request message; and

a communications unit to transmit the request.

54. The messaging system of claim 53, wherein the additional information comprises information extracted from the user's system.

55. The messaging system of claim 53, wherein the additional information comprises context information obtained from the client portion of the system, such as: location and time of day.

56. The messaging system of claim 53, further comprising:

an action logic to execute one or more actions triggered by the keywords in the request message.